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Outcome of the fifth review of the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi

1. On 30 July 2007, the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission adopted the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi (see PBC/1/BDI/4) to accompany Burundi's peacebuilding efforts, with a focus on the following priorities: promotion of good governance; Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement between the Government of Burundi and the Parti pour la libération du peuple hutu — Forces nationales de libération (PALIPEHUTU-FNL); security sector; justice, promotion of human rights and action to combat impunity; the land issue and socio-economic recovery; mobilization and coordination of international assistance; subregional dimension; and gender dimension. The Commission also agreed to maintain its engagement with Burundi and jointly review continued engagement after the 2010 national elections in Burundi. Those elections have now been held.

2. During the implementation of the Strategic Framework, the Government of Burundi and the Peacebuilding Commission, together with national and international stakeholders, undertook four reviews to assess progress made, to consider outstanding peacebuilding challenges and to renew their commitments in addressing those challenges. The fifth review marks the end of the process related to the Strategic Framework, and the present outcome document of the fifth review provides the basis for the renewed engagement between the Government of Burundi and the Commission.

3. The fifth review of the Strategic Framework comes at a time when the preparation of a second poverty reduction strategy paper under the leadership of the Government of Burundi has begun. The Government of Burundi intends to integrate peacebuilding and remaining peacebuilding issues in the strategy paper. The present document spells out the areas in which the Peacebuilding Commission will continue to support the Government of Burundi in its peacebuilding efforts.

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4. In doing so, *the Peacebuilding Commission takes note of the progress achieved in Burundi and as such*:

5. *Welcomes* the fifth report on the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi and its recommendations and conclusions. It appreciates the contributions to that report of the Government of Burundi, representatives of civil society, women's organizations, the private sector, political parties, religious groups, the Bashingantahe institution and international partners, as well as the support from the United Nations Office in Burundi in the preparation of the report.

6. *Welcomes* progress made since the completion of the fourth review of the Strategic Framework in March 2010, in particular:

(a) The completion of the 2010 elections as well as the functioning of the elected institutions, and the recognition of the strong will of the Burundian population to achieve peace, as manifested during the election process;

(b) The performance contracts the President signed with members of his Government as a new tool to strengthen accountability;

(c) The President's zero tolerance policy against corruption, together with the actions already taken to address corruption cases and eradicate the culture of corruption;

(d) The creation of the institution of the Ombudsman, the appointment of the Ombudsman and the allocation of resources for its functioning;

(e) The adoption of the law creating the Independent National Human Rights Commission as well as the initiation of the process of nominating its members;

(f) The publication of the report of the national consultations on the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms;

(g) The establishment of the Burundi Revenue Authority and indications of an increase in the collection of public revenues in the context of signs of a reviving economy;

(h) The progress made in the disarmament of the civilian population and the establishment of a legal and institutional framework for the stockpile management of weapons;

(i) The share of 32 per cent of women in Parliament, 50 per cent in the Senate and 43 per cent in the Cabinet;

(j) The adoption of the *lettre de politique foncière* by presidential decree.

7. *Welcomes* the regional integration of Burundi, in particular the momentum generated in 2011 with Burundi assuming the presidency of the East African Community and chairing the Summit of Heads of State or Government and the Council of Ministers of the East African Community.

8. *Recognizes* the continued support of peacebuilding and recovery efforts by the United Nations through the United Nations Office in Burundi.

9. *Welcomes* the financial and political support provided by the multilateral and bilateral partners of Burundi, including consideration by the Peacebuilding Fund of

a smaller, consolidating second allocation, and encourages them to maintain their engagement.

10. *Recognizes* that challenges in building peace in Burundi remain, both in the political and institutional and in the social and economic domains. These challenges are identified in the report of the Chair of the Burundi configuration on his visit in February 2011, contained in the fifth review report. The Peacebuilding Commission welcomes the Partners Coordination Group, in particular its political forum, as a privileged platform for dialogue between the Government, the international community and international stakeholders on the implementation of measures to address those remaining challenges. The Commission stresses the need for continued active engagement by all actors in support of the national efforts of Burundi in addressing these challenges.

Mutual engagement in peacebuilding in Burundi

11. *Future engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Peacebuilding Commission reaffirms* its commitment to continued support for national peacebuilding efforts in Burundi by the Government of Burundi, its national counterparts, the United Nations Office in Burundi and other international partners. The Commission's engagement will continue to be based on the core principles of national ownership, mutual accountability and sustained partnership. The Commission envisages aligning its future engagement with Burundi with the second poverty reduction strategy paper and its peacebuilding components, and mobilizing resources to build capacities and strengthen institutions. Its actions will be outcome-oriented. With the aim of creating an environment conducive to sustainable development and trade, the Commission will continue to follow two complementary tracks, one regarding political and institutional issues, the other regarding social and economic issues. The Commission views its role as a subsidiary one, drawing international attention, providing advocacy and offering accompaniment for Burundi in its continuing transition to sustainable, peaceful development.

Political and institutional peacebuilding issues
Consolidation of the culture of democracy and dialogue

12. *The Government of Burundi will*

(a) Explore the opportunities to consolidate the work of the Independent Electoral Commission to address such pending issues as the electoral code, the timetable and the settlement of electoral disputes with a view to the 2015 elections;

(b) Foster a culture of political inclusiveness and engage in a forward-looking dialogue with all relevant actors, including those not represented in the institutions, who are denouncing violence and are willing to contribute to the shaping of the future of the country.

13. *The Peacebuilding Commission will*

(a) Organize a stocktaking exercise from the 2010 elections to draw key lessons from the contributions and role of the Peacebuilding Commission and to discuss support for future electoral processes, in cooperation with the Government of Burundi, possibly other country configurations of the Commission and other actors, including such regional initiatives as the East African Community and the secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region;

(b) Continue to encourage and to mobilize support for national efforts to foster a political culture based on inclusiveness, participation and dialogue between the Government and all relevant political actors.

Good governance, human rights and the rule of law

14. *The Government of Burundi will*

(a) In the fight against corruption,

(i) Pursue the full implementation of the zero tolerance policy at all levels of institutions by, inter alia, strengthening mechanisms and institutions to promote accountability and prevent corruption, as well as the resources and capacities of anti-corruption agencies, and by developing, adopting and implementing the "stratégie nationale de bonne gouvernance et lutte contre la corruption";

(ii) Take further action and keep its commitment to speed up efforts to combat corruption by expediting the settlement of cases currently before the courts, including the conclusion of pending cases referred to in the third progress report, by conducting transparent investigations of open cases and by supporting and strengthening governmental and non-governmental organizations in the fight against corruption, building on recent successes and lessons learned;

(iii) Ensure physical protection and freedom of speech and movement for members of civil society and other persons engaged in the fight against corruption;

(b) In the area of human rights and the rule of law,

(i) Appoint the members of the Independent National Human Rights Commission, ensuring the effective representation of civil society, in order to make the Commission operational as soon as possible;

(ii) Continue improving the performance of the judicial system, inter alia, through the establishment and implementation of an inclusive system and process of monitoring and evaluation;

(iii) Ensure, with a view to fighting impunity, the strict and expeditious application of administrative and penal procedures and sanctions against State agents accused of human rights violations, namely of torture and summary executions, which civil society as well as the Security Council and Secretariat of the United Nations qualify as "extrajudicial", and prosecute the perpetrators of other severe crimes, notably the massacre of Gatumba, the assassination of representatives of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund in Burundi, the murder of four members of the Forces nationales de libération in Kinama and the assassination of the Vice-President of Observatoire de lutte contre la corruption et les malversations économiques;

(iv) Continue professionalizing the defence and security forces throughout the country to provide better security while respecting human rights and individual freedoms; and continue increasing the transparency and accountability of the security services to the Parliament and civil society. In doing so, it will aim at implementing the recommendations of the fifth review

of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi, in particular the drafting of the blueprint and the defence review, the preparation of a security sector reform integrated plan, involving civil society and all other relevant partners, and the increase in efforts on issues relating to small arms and the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa;

(c) In the area of transitional justice, keep the issue of transitional justice as a top priority, communicate widely the report on national consultations and, with a view to progressing towards implementation of the double mechanism, resume the discussions on pending issues (independence of the Court prosecutor, relationship between the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Special Tribunal, and exclusion of amnesty for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide).

15. *The Peacebuilding Commission will*

(a) Assist in the implementation of the zero tolerance policy against corruption stated by the President and support efforts of the Government in addressing long-standing and pending cases of corruption, and further engage and provide dedicated support to the civil society organizations involved in the fight against corruption;

(b) Mobilize required support to the Independent National Human Rights Commission;

(c) Provide a platform for the Government, civil society and victims associations to share the outcome of the national consultations on transitional justice mechanisms with the international community in New York, with a view to further mobilizing international support for their implementation.

Social and economic peacebuilding issues

Second poverty reduction strategy paper and socio-economic reintegration of vulnerable groups

16. *The Government of Burundi will*

(a) Regarding the socio-economic integration of vulnerable groups,

(i) In the context of communal development, the resolution of land disputes and youth unemployment, further implement the national strategy on the socio-economic reintegration of vulnerable groups affected by the conflict, with particular regard to the reintegration of former combatants;

(ii) Adopt lasting solutions to the problems of landless people and of the small size of land parcels by elaborating a "livre blanc" and holding "états généraux" on land issues, to complement the "villagisation" policy envisaged by the Government in order to respond to the whole set of issues related to land;

(b) Regarding the economic development of the country,

(i) Communicate and start implementing the new strategy on good governance with a view to achieving an environment conducive to investment;

(ii) Ensure that sensitive land issues are taken into account in the second poverty reduction strategy paper.

17. *The Peacebuilding Commission will*

(a) In coordination with the Peacebuilding Fund, mobilize and coordinate financial and technical support for the implementation of the national socio-economic reintegration strategy;

(b) Regarding economic development and the implementation of the second poverty reduction strategy paper,

(i) Help the Government of Burundi to develop new partnerships and broaden the donor base, including through a donor conference in Bujumbura in the context of a Consultative Group meeting to be convened after the completion of the second poverty reduction strategy paper in 2011;

(ii) Strengthen the dialogue and partnership with the Government and ensure timely information on anticipated and actual aid flows, thus improving coordination of international aid;

(iii) Help to create an environment conducive to developing economic activities and attracting national and foreign investment, including the promotion of South-South partnerships, in implementing the second poverty reduction strategy paper;

(iv) Increase efforts aimed at closer strategic partnership with the African Union, the African Development Bank and the international financial institutions, as well as with the institutions of regional integration.

Regional integration

18. *The Government of Burundi will*

(a) Pursue efforts aimed at strengthening key national institutions that play a lead role in regional integration and actively implement all requirements of the East African Community treaty in a timely manner, in order for integration to be successful;

(b) Complete the ongoing strategic studies on regional integration to clearly define priorities behind which resources can be mobilized and coordinated.

19. *The Peacebuilding Commission will* explore ways and means of supporting regional integration both nationally and internationally.

Monitoring and evaluating

20. The monitoring and evaluation of actions taken on these peacebuilding priorities and the above-mentioned commitments will be carried out in conjunction with the second poverty reduction strategy paper.

21. The Partners Coordination Group in Burundi will ensure that peacebuilding matters, and particularly urgent political issues, are put on the agenda of the forum politique for consultation between the Government of Burundi and its partners, and for adoption and subsequent review of recommendations.

22. In alignment with the relevant benchmarking in the second poverty reduction strategy paper, the Burundi configuration will propose a workplan, setting priorities and envisaged outcomes for a set period of time.

23. The Chair of the Burundi configuration will make regular visits, alone or with a Peacebuilding Commission delegation, and will report to the Peacebuilding Commission in New York.

24. The Burundi configuration will review progress on the peacebuilding challenges as defined in the present document at least once a year.